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## FROM THE CHAIR

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As I write this, SIGIR members are voting in the new Executive Committee. I would like to thank everyone who has put themselves forward for one of the offices. The SIG runs on volunteer effort: the *SIGIR Forum* editors, the website's information director, the awards chair, the IR list editor, conference committees, reviewing, and so on. Your great ideas and constructive energy will benefit everyone. I hope that others will touch base with the new Executive to find out how they can help with the SIG's operations.

You may have noticed recent announcements by the ACM about changes in the digital library policies. You can see some of the options available to you as an author at <http://authors.acm.org/>. Perhaps most useful is a way to provide a link from your home page to some or all of your ACM publications, allowing anyone to read those papers regardless of whether they subscribe to the digital library. ACM also now provides a way for you to pay to have your publication made openly available via any access method. Making material more openly available is something that ACM is striving to accomplish. Doing that while still generating funds to support the digital library itself is their challenge.

In addition to SIGIR 2013 in Ireland this July/August, watch for announcements about SIGIR 2014 (Gold Coast, Australia) and SIGIR 2015 (Santiago, Chile). The location for SIGIR 2016 will be announced at the SIGIR business meeting in Dublin. The Executive will be looking for informal bids for SIGIR 2017 at that time, too. So if you have a possible venue for SIGIR that year in Asia or Australia, please consider making a bid. You can find more information at <http://sigir.org/bid.html>.

Many conferences sponsored by SIGIR are also coming up soon; look for their calls for papers and participation. JCDL 2013 is in Indianapolis, Indiana, the week before SIGIR. CIKM 2013 will be in San Francisco this October/November, CIKM 2014 in Shanghai, and CIKM 2015 will be in Melbourne, Australia. WSDM returns to New York City in early 2014 after three years elsewhere. Please check <http://sigir.org/events/events-upcoming.html> for a list of other events of interest to the IR community.

When I agreed to be a candidate for Chair of SIGIR, I had two “planks” in my platform: rethinking the foundations for a high-quality SIGIR conference and exploring the possibility of regional SIGIR conferences. Although there has been a great deal of discussion of these issues since then, I am not convinced they are “solved.” I hear complaints about the reviewing process and about inconsistencies between conferences, I notice a proliferation of IR-related summer schools and workshops, I am told of people who submit their IR papers outside of traditional IR venues to get “better consideration,” and I worry that papers that take risks, that stray from the mainstream, or that do not

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discuss techniques that can be monetized in the short run are not treated well. Recent IR conferences have made strides toward addressing these issues by rationalizing the pool of reviewers, by increasing the prestige of posters by making their papers longer, and by trying to raise the acceptance rate so that riskier but good papers are less likely to be lost. I step down as Chair of SIGIR feeling that there has been some movement forward, but that much more needs to be done. I would like to see cooperation between the major IR conferences to recognize and support the fact that papers rejected by one conference are handed off to the next, to connect disparate workshops and mini-conferences with SIGIR more formally, and to explore ways to create regional IR conferences where they do not already exist. If you're interested in these or related issues, please seek me out so that we can work for more changes.

As always, please touch base with me or any other member of the Executive – or with the new Executive starting in July! – if you have any issues that you feel should be discussed or if you wish to help with any of the SIGIR work.

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